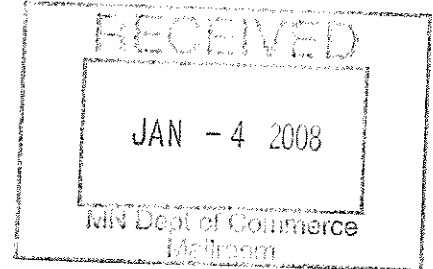


Diana L. Storrs
P. O. Box 552
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-0552



December 16, 2007

Bill Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Storm,

I am a student at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, currently finishing a semester of study that includes a course in Environmental Science. The text for this course is *Principles of Environmental Science*, Cunningham, William P. and Mary Ann Cunningham. The chapter under discussion is entitled, "Environmental Policy and Sustainability", subtitled, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." --Mahatma Gandhi.

In conjunction with our studies, we were encouraged to read the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Mesaba Energy Project. As I am sure you are aware, this is a challenge to read in its entirety. I therefore selected **Appendix F1, Documentation for USACE, "Overall Project Purposes From a Public Interest Perspective", Item d. Develop solid fuel baseload technologies with significantly reduced emissions of particulate matter, mercury, SO₂ and NO_x**, upon which to focus my comments. It has become common knowledge that mercury is a neurotoxin that can cause harm in people and wildlife, sulfur dioxide is a corrosive gas that in part is a component of acid rain and nitrogen oxides produce smog. It is also fairly well known that coal burning electrical power plants emit these and other particulate matter and an "Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle" power plant is still a coal burning plant. West Range site or East Range site and LEDPA notwithstanding, it is my opinion that all needs as outlined, would be far better served now and in the future by a nuclear power plant.

Section h which reads, **"Support the development of energy systems which enhance national security"**, is a noble and lofty goal and one with which I heartily concur. Stamp the words "national security" on nearly any program and I will support it first and ask questions second. So while I support a project that will bring jobs and electrical power to Minnesota, I am now asking the questions, is it not better to avoid adding any more emissions to our air in the first place, rather than trying to minimize them? Is this not a case of none is better than some?

I appreciate your time in reading this letter, Mr. Storm.

Thank you,

Diana Storrs
Diana Storrs